

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00 SCI-06 AGR-20 /187 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIETS CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE NORMALIZATION
OF US-USSR RELATIONS

1. DESPITE SOME OBVIOUS DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THEIR
CURRENT RELEGATION TO THE SIDELINES IN MIDDLE EAST
DEVELOPMENTS, EVERY INDICATION HERE IS THAT THE
SOVIETS REMAIN INTENT UPON PURSUING THE COURSE OF
NORMALIZATION OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN THIS
CONTEXT, I BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO TAKE NOTE OF THE
FOLLOWING RECENT INDICATORS:

A. KIRILENKO'S SPEECH ON THE EVE OF THE
NOVEMBER 7 CELEBRATION EMPHASIZED THE DESIRABILITY OF
CONTINUED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US (MOSCOW 13956).

B. WHEN BREZHNEV, WHO STOOD IN
LINE TO GREET THE MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ON
THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 7 AT THE KREMLIN, BREZHNEV
GREETED ME WARMLY AND ASKED THAT I CONVEY BEST WISHES
TO THE PRESIDENT.

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C. AN EXECUTIVE LEVEL TRADE MISSION VISITING THE USSR FROM NOVEMBER 12-21 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IS RECEIVING FIRST-CLASS TREATMENT. MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, HEADED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE TURNER, WERE RECEIVED IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV ON NOVEMBER 16.

D. THE FIRST SESSION OF THE US-USSR JOINT COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE WAS HELD NOVEMBER 13-15 HERE IN MOSCOW. WIDE AREAS OF COOPERATION WERE AGREED UPON. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BRUNTHAVER WAS RECEIVED IN A VERY FRIENDLY AND RELAXED ATMOSPHERE BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE POLYANSKIY NOVEMBER 15. IT WAS EVIDENT TO ME THAT POLYANSKIY PERSONALLY WAS EXTREMELY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE. DURING THE CALL, POLYANSKIY EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO SECRETARY BUTZ TO VISIT THE USSR AT HIS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

E. AT THE WORKING LEVEL, CONTACTS HAVE REMAINED BUSINESSLIKE AND PRODUCTIVE. KORNIYENKO, CHIEF OF USA DIVISION OF MFA, STRESSED TO ME TODAY AT A SPASO HOUSE RECEPTION MARKING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THAT THE TWO SIDES MUST VIGOROUSLY PURSUE THE COURSE THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE LEADERSHIPS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES. INTERESTINGLY, HE SAID WE SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT THE PATH WOULD BE STRAIGHT AND EASY; DIFFERENCES HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUR. BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND CONTINUALLY THE OBJECTIVES THAT HAVE BEEN SET.

2. THE FOREGOING SIGNALS ARE A CLEAR INDICATION TO ME THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP CONTINUES TO ATTACH A HIGH PRIORITY TO IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT SEEMS INTENT AT THIS TIME UPON MINIMIZING THE EFFECT OF DIFFERENCES OVER ISSUES SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST AND CONGRESSIONAL INHIBITIONS REGARDING THE GRANTING OF MFN TREATMENT TO THE USSR.

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